

ment was made on the order. In due time the order arrived, but the stuff was not what we ordered, not a single item being correct in color, style or material. We had, however, accepted the package, and paid the C. O. D. for the balance.

We wrote the Hoover Company and called their attention to the error and asked for instructions as to returning the goods and the return of our money. In reply they sent samples and asked us to reorder. This we refused to do and asked for return of our money. They did not send back the initial deposit, but referred me to their agent. I wrote the agent and he has so far ignored the letter.

Of the sales made in San Bernardino, everyone, so far as I have been able to learn from conversation with other doctors, not one received the goods as ordered nor has proper adjustment been made, or where the goods were returned, in not one instance has the agent returned the initial deposit. I have asked one of the doctors to write out his experience with this outfit, and am enclosing it herewith.

If you will give this fraud some publicity, I believe some other overtrusting doctors may save their money from these crooks.

303 Professional Building, San Bernardino.

Very truly,

CHARLES A. WYLIE, M. D.

P. S.—One of the letters from the Hoover Company is attached.

December 18, 1933.

Dear Doctor Wylie:—Replying to your letter of the 12th inst., please be advised that the amount which you paid to the agent on your order was retained by him as his commission. It is, therefore, necessary for you to communicate with him for a refund of it.

We suggest that you get in touch with the agent at the following address for a return of your deposit: Mr. Roy H. Thomas, c/o Y. M. C. A., Sacramento, California.

251 West Nineteenth Street, New York.

Yours very sincerely,

HOOVER MANUFACTURING AND SALES CO., INC.  
Art Berger, General Manager.

NRA member. We do our part.

## DOCTORS PLAN HEALTH UNITS TO END FAKES\*

"Aroused by the exploitation of their profession and their patients by laymen racketeers, some five thousand doctors of the state are preparing to band themselves together in hospital insurance units and render direct service without profit to the middle man.

"While there have been sporadic moves in this direction in some localities, the chaos created by wholesale depredations of unscrupulous health and accident associations has determined physicians generally to take affairs into their own hands, it was learned yesterday.

### LAUDS WARREN ACTION

"The California Medical Association, with its statewide membership, is vitally interested in the action taken by the Grand Jury and District Attorney Earl Warren of Alameda County to end exploitation of the people by certain hospital and health organizations," said Dr. T. Henshaw Kelly, chairman of the Council of the Association.

\* Reprinted from the San Francisco Chronicle, February 23, 1934. See editorial comment in this issue, page 196.

"This Association insists, as the courts of the state have repeatedly held, that medical service can be furnished only by doctors of medicine, and that no corporation or lay organizations or persons can intervene between the ill patient and the physician of his choice.

"Use of the sick man and his doctor by corporations or other like organizations to extract a profit for themselves from others' suffering and service is repugnant, and misguided efforts to legalize such practices under the guise of regulation have been quite properly ignored by the Legislature.

### NEW SYSTEM INVOLVED

"The Association has realized for some time the desirability of providing a means by which many people can pay for their hospital and medical care by pooling periodic payments during health, and it has, by sustained and careful work and study, evolved methods to accomplish these ends without injury to the standards of the service to be rendered.

*"The county medical societies of the Association in San Francisco, Alameda, Santa Clara, Ventura, Sacramento, San Diego and other counties are studying and formulating plans by which, in coöperation with the hospitals in these counties, hospitalization will be made available in the above manner at no other cost than the proper hospital charges and minimum administrative costs."*

"It is the desire of the physicians in these counties, upon the successful operation of the hospitalization plan, to then develop and offer plans by which they will render medical service without the intervention of any corporate or lay body and at a cost covering only administrative charges and very reasonable fees paid the physician chosen by the participating members to care for them in sickness.

### WAIT LAW CHANGES

"As soon as the application of existing laws to these plans is clarified, the Alameda County Medical Association, with affiliated hospitals and other county societies, is prepared to proceed with hospitalization service."

*"In Sacramento yesterday the files of the State Board of Medical Examiners revealed some of the methods used by agents for racketeering health insurance concerns in selling contracts. One set of records contained sucker lists, in which all prominent or moderately wealthy persons in a central California city were 'pegged.'*

"Here are a few samples:

"Mrs. Ruth ——. Husband in Denmark. Lots of money, believe it or not. Nuts on flowers and dogs."

"James —, carpenter, Scotch, dumb, plenty dry."

"H. C. —, grocer, Protestant, very dry. Give him plenty of baloney."

"—, Sheriff. Thinks he is pretty big, but is dumb." . . .

*Iron Metabolism in Anemia.*—According to the observation of Snelling, the results of studies of iron balance and pigment excretion in a series of seven premature infants tend to establish certain features of this condition and lead to possible explanations of the disorder. Premature infants tend to have a positive iron balance when fed according to the method commonly employed. The pigment excretion is not excessive. The anemia affects the red blood cells and hemoglobin equally, develops in spite of treatment, and improves spontaneously. The anemia appears to be due to a failure to utilize the available supplies rather than to a lack of the substances that compose hemoglobin. An etiologic hypothesis which would explain many of the observed phenomena portrays failure of utilization of the substances that compose hemoglobin due to inadequate medullary space coincident with the premature cessation of hematopoietic activity in the liver.—*Journal of Pediatrics*, May, 1933.